



## **Arlington Disability Commission Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021

**Time:** 4:00 pm

**Location:** Conducted by Remote Participation

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Commissioners Cynthia DeAngelis, Darcy Devney (Chair), Kerrie Fallon, Karen Mathiasen, Liza Molina, Paul Parravano, Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Paul Raia

Guests: Christina Coleman (DEI Administrative Assistant), Grace Carpenter (volunteer), Janice Cagan-Teuber (resident), Ellen Leigh (volunteer, advocate)

### Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:01pm by Devney

1. Call to Order- Read Ground Rules, Welcome
2. Approve March & April Meeting Minutes
  - a. Parravano motioned to approve March & April meeting minutes.  
DeAngelis seconded, all in favor.
3. Robbins Library HP Automatic Door Discussion

- a. Tabled
- 4. Whittemore Park Update – Phase II
  - a. Project is partially funded by CDBG money. The primary purpose of the project is to improve the accessibility to the rear of the Jefferson Cutter House.
  - b. Proposed to eliminate the zigzag path from the sidewalk, taking path directly along the edge of the Jefferson Cutter House, and expanding the path into the rear of the Jefferson Cutter House; will even up the grade
  - c. Included space for a wheelchair; adding additional steps at the very back of the house that will level out the grades
  - d. Leigh suggested adding a railing because railings will help increase access; Carter – there is a compliant railing near the rear entrance of the building
- 5. Automatic Traffic Signals
  - a. Leigh wants to invite Daniel Amstuz (Senior Transportation Planner) and Rachel Stark (Walk Arlington Rep) to an upcoming meeting to discuss.
  - b. Parravano suggested reaching out to the Audio Signal Subcommittee to arrange a conversation between Daniel Amstuz and Dana Benjamin (City of Cambridge's Traffic Engineer) prior to our next meeting
  - c. Tabled
- 6. Retreat Follow- Up from Children & Education Team
  - a. Tabled
- 7. Budget Discussion & Update Review
  - a. Remaining budget is \$19,725.00
  - b. Rademacher spoke with Jim Feeney to see what projects the Disability Commission can provide financial assistance with
  - c. Select Board is interested in a hybrid approach for public meetings which will allow people to attend meetings remotely or in-person
  - d. DC could potentially fund the Select Board hybrid public meeting initiative
  - e. Commission would like to prioritize funding HP Automatic Doors at the Robbins Library
  - f. Raia proposed spending budget on a survey for accessible businesses in Arlington; Leigh suggested adding the previous survey results from 2019 to the Town's website; might have to update the survey results due to businesses closing
  - g. Rademacher will research the costs of equipment for hybrid meetings and cost of Robbins Library HP Doors
  - h. Devney reminded the commission that they are allocating some of the budget to training expenses
- 8. DEI Updates

- a. Upcoming Community Conversations in June and July
  - b. Pride events scheduled for June
- 9. Warrant Article Update
  - a. Warrant Article #48 passed
- 10. Election, Vice Chair and Secretary
  - a. Rademacher volunteered to be Vice Chair pending discussion with Town Counsel.
  - b. Commission discussed rolling co-chair option
  - c. DeAngelis nominated Mathiasen for secretary, Rademacher seconded, all in favor.
  - d. Mathiasen elected as secretary.
- 11. Priorities for next meeting's agenda
  - a. Recognition of Service – Maureen
  - b. Automatic Traffic Signals
  - c. Expanding Membership
  - d. Budget
- 12. New Business
  - a. Raia – neighbor came to him and is interested in having the Town build public handicap accessible bathrooms in the center of Town, and is asking for the Disability Commission's support
  - b. Parravano suggests discussing with the BOH or the Select Board before providing our support
- 13. Public Comment Period
  - a. None

Rademacher motioned to adjourn meeting, DeAngelis seconded, all in favor: Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.